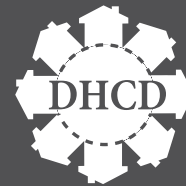
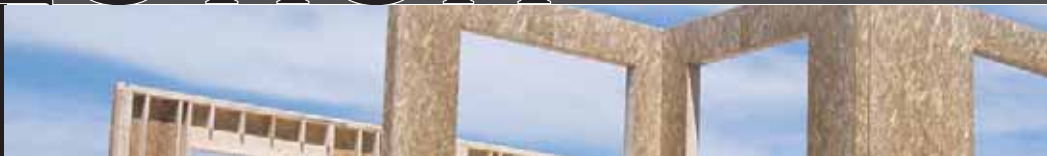


CODE CONNECTION



FALL 2006



Deputy Director's Corner

Emory Rodgers, Deputy Director, Division of Building and Fire Regulation

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with friends and family. The Division of Building and Fire Regulation (DBFR) staff are busy and committed to bringing the very best and most timely delivery of services to all our valued clients.

Somewhat slowed by internal events, we are pleased to announce the rollout of the online registration for all certification and training classes in November. The details will soon be available on the DHCD Web site. We will continue to issue each edition of Code Connection via e-mail and request you share it with your colleagues. All who wish to receive an electronic notification may do so by e-mailing: Tco@dhcd.virginia.gov.

The DBFR met throughout the summer with clients, advisory committees and Fire Service Board Code Committee members to commence the review and code change process for the 2006 regulations. We reviewed the 2006 model codes for differences with the 2003 model codes, reviewed code changes, administrative and technical issues, and reviewed legislative changes.

Additionally, we are preparing draft regulations for the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) Codes and Standards Committee to consider for an early 2007 publication. This thorough and extensive preparatory work, now underway, should enable the BHCD to hold two public comment periods, a public hearing, and approve final regulations with an effective date set for the first half of 2008.

Our code enforcement community spoke last year of a need to develop a training module for the International Residential Code on plan review. Additional feedback from participants attending the one-day International Existing Building Code (IEBC) training indicated that a second day of plan review instruction was absolutely necessary to properly understand and utilize the

Code Connection Online



Virginia Rehabilitation Code across the state.

In both instances, with volunteers from the building departments across the state, there are now two teams busily working on both endeavors with the goal of having them available for the 2007 Jack Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy schedule. Training and Certification Office staff members, Sharon Smith, Sandi Morris and I are very impressed and pleased with progress to-date by these volunteers. We owe all the hardworking and dedicated individuals our gratitude and appreciation for their contributions and professionalism.

I want to reinforce that the Virginia Rehabilitation Code

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and the new IEBC module acceptance depends on building officials and their staff promoting its usage. The IEBC module will be marketed and made available to all interested design professionals and builders/developers.

It is vitally important that, on all levels, we each promote and foster the coordination, collaboration and cooperation between our families of code officials. Our family of model codes and the statewide building and fire codes are based on this solidarity of effort among the code officials.

Toward this end, one small step was taken during the 2003 regulatory process where two public comment periods were available. They allowed everyone to see each other's code changes and make comments. Another step was having open and inclusive meetings with the code officials and those from the design, building and owner's associations. The best code changes come out of these types of forums focused on consensus building. We all can better understand the diversity of views that then can be shared and codified into our regulatory process, and into successful legislation such as demonstrated in the enactment of the rental inspection program.

Another small step taken by DBFR this year was automatically placing all designated building, fire and property maintenance code officials on the International Code Commission (ICC) membership list. In the past we relied upon the local code officials to notify us regarding ICC membership. We are posting a list on our Web site of code officials whom we have submitted to the ICC for membership. If you are not on the ICC membership list, or if we have designated the wrong person, please send us an e-mail at: Tco@dhcd.virginia.gov.

DBFR is striving to move further into the high-tech world. Recently, videoconferencing equipment was installed at the DHCD Main Office, as well as the Marion and Roanoke regional offices. In addition to internal uses, we are looking at a myriad of opportunities for communicating with clients, as well as providing educational and training programs through this Web-based technology. Currently, we are developing programs to determine how best to use this new technology.

We are seeking your input on two other important and very relevant topics. The first is increasing local adoptions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code-Maintenance Code (USBC-MC) and the Statewide



Prevention Code (SFPC).

Given the benefits of adopting these codes we are interested and available to provide pro-active and educational presentations to local political and community leaders and governmental officials regarding the important need of providing and maintaining affordable housing; of reducing and mitigating blighted conditions; and of ensuring existing assembly of multi-family, and commercial buildings comply with building and fire safety regulations.

If you have a community growing at an above national average each year in population and economic development, and where you might be studying the option of creating a paid fire department, then consideration of adopting these two statewide codes should be a top priority. We can explain the adoption process, the necessary staffing, and the overall positive benefits derived from neighboring communities who enforce the USBC-MC and the SFPC. For more information, contact me at: emory.rodgers@dhcd.virginia.gov.

The second topic we are seeking your input on is learning what legislative initiatives your locality may be seeking in the 2007 General Assembly. Each year DBFR works closely with the code official associations and client group associations on proposed and filed legislation to ensure that what is approved by the General Assembly, and then approved by the Governor, into law is the best law possible. We want to ensure the law can be clearly understood and promulgated where necessary into our building and fire code regulations.

With this kind of collaboration and consensus building successful legislation emerged from the 2005 General Assembly on a statewide rental inspection program, and during the 2006 General Assembly several bills were approved that are now enacted into our building and fire code regulations.

Most importantly, bills that could have had an adverse impact were tabled or the patron allowed the parties to amend them into more acceptable legislative bills. For the 2007 General Assembly session, if your locality is contemplating legislation that would effect the building and fire codes, please let us know and let your code official's association know. If we can work with each other, then chances for success are far greater with collaboration and consensus building.



Inspection of pre-fabricated buildings raises questions

- Do backyard sheds need to be inspected?
- What types of pre-fabricated sheds or storage facilities purchased by homeowners and delivered to their houses are addressed in the codes?
- What codes apply to them?
- Do these buildings have to be inspected by the local building inspectors?

The 2003 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) Part I Construction Code added an occupancy classification to section 310 of the International Building Code (IBC). This classification, R-5 is for detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories high and their accessory structures.

The USBC also added section 310.3 to the IBC to state that R-5 structures shall comply with the International Residential Code (IRC). The IRC defines an "accessory structure" for one- and two-family dwellings as "a building, the use of which is incidental to that of the main building and which is located on the same lot." The pre-fabricated tool sheds or storage buildings that many

homeowners have delivered are covered by the USBC and would be considered accessory structures under the IRC.

Under the USBC, the installation of such an accessory structure would require a permit from the building official unless the accessory structure fell under the exemption from the application for a permit found in section 108.2 of the USBC. According to that section, a permit is not required for an accessory structure used as a tool or storage shed, playhouse or similar use provided the floor area of the accessory structure does not exceed 150 square feet.

If the floor area exceeds 150 square feet, the USBC would require a permit for the accessory structure to be applied for in accordance with sections 108.3 and 108.4. If the floor area of the accessory structure does not exceed 150 square feet, the owner may request that a permit be issued. If the owner makes such a request, under section 108.2 the permit shall be issued and any related inspections shall be required. Note that section 113.1 of the USBC gives the inspecting authority the discretion of waiving the required inspections if the construction cost is less than \$2,500.

The USBC also added an additional provision addressing the footings and foundations for accessory buildings to section R403.1 of the IRC. The USBC added an exception for certain accessory structures to the requirements for footings and foundations required for other structures.

If the tool shed or storage building does not exceed 256 square feet in area, is not more than 12 feet in height, does not exceed 18 inches from finished floor level to grade, is anchored to resist wind loads, is wood or light steel frame construction, and is supported by structural elements on firm soil according to the provisions of the exception, then it would not be required to have a continuous footing and foundation or other approved foundation system.

Accessory structures that are larger than 256 square feet in area or that do not meet the other restrictions listed

in the exception would need to have continuous footings and foundations or need to be supported by some other structural system approved by the building official.

Another common question is whether pre-fabricated accessory structures are required to have Virginia Registration Seals as registered industrialized buildings under the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR).

Industrialized buildings under the IBSR are structures manufactured off-site, including any electrical, plumbing or HVAC systems in the buildings, and transported to the point of use where they are installed to comprise a finished building.

The IBSR provides a system for inspection of any of the components of the construction which will be concealed before transport to the point of use. The system allows for the verification of code compliance of those hidden components for local building officials unable to inspect the construction in the factories off-site.

The Virginia Registration Seal is the verification for the local building official that ensures portions of the building which are concealed comply with code requirements.

Most pre-fabricated sheds are unfinished on the interior, leaving the structure open for inspection by the building official upon delivery to the dwelling site. Without concealed components in these "open wall buildings," inspections can be done on-site; meaning there is no need to go through the IBSR process to build them as registered industrialized buildings.



(continues on page 4)

Some pre-fabricated sheds are being constructed with finished interiors and electrical systems already installed. Manufacturers of these “closed wall buildings” may go through the procedures to build “registered” industrialized buildings, meaning the buildings have been certified under the IBSR and bear Virginia Registration Seals.

Or, manufacturers and builders may construct “unregistered” industrialized buildings that have not been certified under the IBSR and do not bear Virginia Registration Seals. Under section 13 VAC 5-91-120 of the IBSR, the builder or manufacturer of any unregistered industrialized building must obtain approval for the use of such unregistered building from the local building official.

The building official may require submission of plans and specifications, may require any concealed portions of the building to be exposed for inspections, may require tests of any systems to be conducted, or may accept reports and tests of individuals or agencies acceptable to the official to determine if the unregistered building will be approved for use in the jurisdiction.

If there are further questions about the requirements for accessory structures such as tool sheds and storage buildings, please call the State Building Code Administrative Office at (804) 371-7160 and ask for one of our staff engineers for assistance.

Resolution for wall bracing passed

Recently, after much review and discussion, the Virginia State Building Code Technical Review Board issued a resolution providing guidance to local building departments when interpreting application for wall bracing requirements.

These requirements for wind loads in the construction of homes and townhouses in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) are found in the International Residential Code (IRC).

Previously, requirements were found in the CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code. In 1998, the IRC was developed, replacing CABO, and addressing homes constructed with complex architectural features and roof designs, larger floor areas, greater wall lengths and heights, and more and larger window and garage openings.

The tried and true method of a let-in brace or a plywood panel at each corner of a wall, previously considered standard, was becoming inadequate for these new complex designs and



configurations.

However, the IRC contained complex wall bracing requirements and complicated and confusing terminology such as “braced wall panel” and “braced wall line.” The IRC identified wall bracing methods with terminology such as “continuous structural panel sheathing” permitting “alternate braced wall panels.” These complex descriptions made deciphering requirements increasingly difficult.

Currently, the IRC lists eight different methods for wall bracing, with alternate braced wall panels allowable as substitutes for any method. The IRC utilizes a wall bracing table to designate where and how the different bracing methods may be used.

Builders and contractors found it difficult to achieve compliance with the wall bracing provisions. As a result, many builders decided to use plywood or oriented strand board panels on all exterior wall surfaces including above and below window and door openings, so that their framing inspections would pass. Unfortunately, this method does not compensate for the placement of window and garage openings within four feet of the ends of walls.

Last year, local building departments from the Richmond area met to discuss a regional policy on wall bracing requirements. At this time, the Northern Virginia building departments were also considering the issue. DHCD then brought together an ad hoc committee to examine current wall bracing requirements and work toward drafting provisions which were easier to read and apply.

Additionally, two governmental representatives and one industry representative from DHCD’s committee began serving on the International Code Commission (ICC) official ad hoc committee on wall bracing at the national level.

The DHCD-sponsored ad hoc committee reviewed proposals being developed by industry representatives for the ICC code change process. The committee also developed a number of proposals for submission to the 2006 USBC and the 2006/2007 ICC code development cycle.

The committee also submitted requests for interpretation to the State Building Code Technical Review Board (Review Board) seeking clarification of the methods contained in the IRC for wall bracing known as the “continuous panel sheathing method.”

Review Board representatives met with members of the DHCD committee and focused their interpretations on the 2003 IRC terminology as follows: “on all sheathable areas of all exterior walls.”

In conclusion, a resolution, rather than an official interpretation was recommended to be issued by the Review Board. The resolution states that Division of Building and Fire Regulation staff seek ways and means of encouraging local building department personnel to approve modifications, and use flexibility in the application of the current provisions on wall bracing, taking into consideration changes to the provisions already occurring at the national level and being proposed

through the ICC and DHCD-sponsored ad hoc committees. The Review Board has since approved the resolution, which can be found in full text below this article.

DHCD staff thank all who were involved in the DHCD-sponsored ad hoc committee and who are serving on the ICC ad hoc committee. Additional resources concerning this issue are available from DHCD staff. The Fairfax County Building Department has produced an excellent wall bracing methods guide available on their Web site at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/wind_bracing/.

Feel free to contact DHCD staff for copies of any of the code change proposals on wall bracing, their status, and additional information or assistance in granting modification requests under the USBC.

RESOLUTION OF THE VIRGINIA STATE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Building Code Technical Review Board (Review Board) is within the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Building and Fire regulation, also within the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, provides technical assistance to local building departments concerning the application and enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Building Code (USBC); and

WHEREAS, the Review Board considers interpretations of the provisions of the USBC when requested by local government code enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS, an issue concerning the application of the International Residential Code (IRC), a model code incorporated by the USBC for the construction of dwellings and townhouses, relating to wall bracing requirements and the use of continuous wood structural panel sheathing, has been considered by the Review Board; and

WHEREAS, the Review Board finds that such provisions of the IRC appear to be unnecessarily restrictive based on documentation from the IRC code change process and correspondence from members of an ad hoc committee established to review and recommend changes to the provisions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Review board, that the Division of Building and Fire Regulation is hereby requested to provide guidance to local building departments concerning the granting of modifications under the USBC and other means to achieve a reasonable application of the wall bracing requirements of the IRC based on the findings, recommendations and code change proposals resulting from the work of the ad hoc committee and experts in this area of application of the IRC. Further, such guidance is requested with specific regard to permitting the use of other methods of wall bracing in conjunction with the continuously sheathed method on different levels of a dwelling and on adjacent wall lines, and not requiring sheathing on areas within a wall line that are not the required braced wall panels, while assuring that an adequate amount and type of braced wall panels are provided and sufficient evidence is submitted that the spirit and functional intent of the code is met.

Watch what you heat - cooking is the leading cause of home fires

Governor Timothy Kaine has proclaimed Oct. 8 – 14 Fire Prevention Week in the Commonwealth. This year's theme, "Watch what you heat" emphasizes preventing cooking fires by asking for citizen cooperation in helping prevent painful injury and property damage.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and injuries. Cooking equipment is involved in more than 100,000 reported home fires each year, and most of those involve the kitchen stovetop. Most cooking fires occur because people leave their appliances unattended while cooking. Here are a few reminders that will help prevent fires and the resulting injuries and deaths from cooking.



The Governor's proclamation is featured on page 7.

For more information contact your local Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's Office at (804) 371-7170 or e-mail: statefiremarshal@dhcd.virginia.gov. or go online at

http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/State_Fire_Marshal/default.htm.

Safety Tips:

- Pay attention to your cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Allow food cooked in a microwave oven to cool for a minute or more before you remove it from the oven, and use an oven mitt.
- Ensure all appliances are in good working order. Have gas appliances serviced regularly and replace cracked or frayed electrical cords.
- Have ground fault interrupters (GFCIs) installed in the kitchen, especially for counter tops and near sinks.
- When finished cooking, turn off burners or ovens.



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all Virginia residents as well as visitors to our great state; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, research from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has documented that cooking is the leading cause of home fires; that one out of three home fires begins in the kitchen – more than any other place in the home; and

WHEREAS, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia State Firefighters, and the Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators are dedicated to preserving life and property from the devastating effects of fire, and they are joined by concerned citizens of the Commonwealth in their fire safety efforts; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire; and

WHEREAS, using proper care when cooking will have a positive effect on the home fire problem; and

WHEREAS, each cooking fire that is prevented in Virginia is an opportunity to prevent painful injury and costly property damage; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat", effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions that we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby declare October 8-14, 2006, as **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Governor

Secretary of the Commonwealth

SFMO to begin inspections of nightclubs, schools and other private facilities

Soon the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) will begin new inspection programs authorized by the General Assembly. Nightclubs, private schools, private hospitals, and private college dorms will now receive fire prevention inspections on a regular basis.

Previously, these inspections were only done on the basis of a complaint, or rarely, upon request if schedules allowed. Fees authorized by the General Assembly will be charged and permits are being issued for these inspections. The fees will be used to offset the costs of inspection.

Nightclubs, by their nature, pose unique inspection challenges. New procedures will require that daytime fire prevention inspections will be administered first, to provide owners with an idea of what to expect and begin to make corrections. An additional, shorter inspection will be conducted at night focusing on maintenance of exits, occupant loads, and the use of decorative materials and pyrotechnics.

Inspectors can imagine what issues may arise when reviewing a facility that has been in business for a number of years, but has never experienced fire prevention inspections. Most frequently, a lack of kitchen-hood inspections, grease buildup in hoods, missing or out-of-date fire extinguishers, locked or blocked exits, extension cord hazards and broken electrical receptacles are being found.

In some cases, interior finishes have been added that do not meet the building code under which the nightclub was built, and no occupant load is posted. Where building code issues might arise, building officials are being contacted for assistance and guidance.

In several cases, inspectors have found kitchen systems that have not been inspected since they were installed. The Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) requires semi-annual inspections of these systems. Many owners are not aware of the six-month inspection requirement.

Nightclubs, by SFMO definition, must offer areas for dancing, i.e. dance floors. If there are no dance areas, the club will not meet the definition and will not be subject to inspection. During daytime inspections it may be difficult to determine whether the facility has dance areas, however every effort should be made to find out.

Many private schools have requested exemptions because of the inability to pay fees, because they are inspected by other state agencies or for religious reasons. Most are assured that fees are reasonable and based on square footage, and that inspection is now mandated by the General Assembly.

As one SFMO regional manager kidding another regional manager, said "I have been looking for divine intervention from the inspection program myself."



Useful Links

Virginia Floodplain Management Association

<http://www.vaflood.org/index.htm>

Training and Certification Office

<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/default.htm>

Code publication order form

<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Docs/Publication%20Order%20Form.pdf>

Virginia Building Code Academy Schedule

<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/Docs/2006VBCAScheduleApplication.pdf>



What you need to know about explosives permits

The Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) sets processes and procedures in place for the enforcement of the regulations as they pertain to the manufacture, sale, storage and use of explosives, and for the process of issuing explosives permits.

The SFPC can be enforced by a local fire official only after the locality has acted upon enabling legislation found in § 27-98 of the Code of Virginia. If a locality has not acted on that enabling legislation enforcement authority falls to the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO).

Approximately 113 out of 324 cities, counties and towns in Virginia have acted on the enabling legislation and have enforcement authority through their locally appointed fire official. These 113 localities represent 83 percent of Virginia's population.

It is estimated that most storage and usage of explosives occurs within the remaining 211 localities where the SFMO is the enforcing authority.

Regardless of where the enforcement authority is, permits are required for activities involving explosives. And, like local fire officials, the SFMO is prohibited from issuing such permits to applicants that have not undergone a criminal history records check.

To obtain an explosives permit, an applicant must follow a basic two-step process administered by DHCD's Training & Certification Office (TCO).

1. Blaster Certification and Background Clearance Cards

Since the TCO is presently tasked with the responsibility of certifying blasters to a minimum level of competency, it became a natural fit to incorporate the process for conducting criminal history records check into the steps of becoming a certified blaster.

To satisfy the statutory requirement found in § 27-97.2, the Background Clearance Card (BCC) was created for the benefit of the non-certified person who is simply representing, by example, a construction company.

The BCC represents that the card holder has gone through the required criminal history records check, and is statutorily entitled to apply for a permit.

2. SFMO permits



Whether a fire official is a local or state official, they are prohibited from issuing a permit to any individual or company that has not undergone the required criminal history records check. (See SFPC Section 3301.2.3.1.)

Once an individual has become certified as a blaster, or has been issued a BCC, they may apply for a permit to manufacture, sell, store, or use explosives. When the SFMO is the enforcement authority, applications for permit can be obtained by mail or via the SFMO Web site at: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/State_Fire_Marshal/Explosives.htm.

For explosives, the SFMO issues annual permits for the entire locality in which the applicant applies. By example, if an applicant applies for a permit to use explosives in Highland County, and assuming the application is acceptable in all other respects, the SFMO will issue a permit to allow the applicant to use explosives anywhere in Highland County for the entire year the permit is valid.

The permit holder is required to keep and maintain records on where and when they execute explosive shots. Permits are renewable for an additional

(continues on page 10)

Upcoming Events:

IEBC one-day training

December 18, 2006
8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA

February 26, 2007
8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sheraton Park South
Richmond, VA
To register, or for more information e-mail:
Tco@dhcd.virginia.gov

Manufactured housing and industrialized or modular buildings

Can you tell the difference? What are they, what codes do they meet, and how are they inspected and certified? Who's responsible for inspecting them in the field?

If you're interested in finding out the answers to those and other questions about the design, installation and inspection of manufactured housing and industrialized or modular buildings, mark your calendar for December 2006 or March 2007.

The Division of Building and Fire Regulation staff is preparing programs to cover those topics, starting with presentations in the Fredericksburg area **Dec. 12, 2006** and the Hampton area on **Dec. 13, 2006**.

We will follow with more programs in other areas of Virginia in March. There will be no fee to attend and you will be able to register for these half-day programs online as soon as we finalize more of the logistics.

We'll announce final plans on the DHCD Web site and provide notice to VBCOA for posting on their Web site.

Governor's Housing Conference

November 29 - December 1
Norfolk Marriott Waterside
Norfolk, VA

More online at www.dhcd.virginia.gov

Hope to see you there!

year. If a permit applicant or holder is operating in multiple localities, multiple permits must be obtained.

By contrast, permits for the manufacture, sale, or storage of explosives are site specific, valid for one year and renewable. (Emergency/ special operational permits are site specific, non-renewable and valid for only seven days.) If the manufacture, sale or storage site were to change, even within the same locality, a new permit is required.

SFMO investigations

Like local fire officials, the SFMO provides oversight or conducts investigations of blasting operations that produce, or could potentially produce, adverse affects resulting in property damage.

The SFMO Web site contains information and guidance documents, including a list of frequently asked questions, providing direction in the event a property owner feels their house or building is being damaged by a nearby blasting operation.

Importance of explosives

Without the use of explosives, most, if not all, construction would come to a halt – whether it is construction for a house, a large building, or for roads.

Explosives are used to extract coal from the ground, providing heat and/or electrical power. Without explosives Portland cement would not be available; mineral harvesting would cease, and with it the manufacture of toothpaste, cosmetics, and more.

Explosives are in the air bags installed in your vehicle; they are used for excavating an internment site at a cemetery; they are even used in the tenderization of meat for human consumption, and the fracturing of kidney and gall stones. The list goes on.

Maintaining the safe use of explosives



is important for public safety, and also for the economy. The SFMO is available to provide information or assistance to anyone in need of it, including local officials, the explosives industry and homeowners.

The challenge has been and continues to be maintaining a balance between allowing industry to use explosives for the common good and commerce, while at the same time protecting people and property from the adverse effects that may arise from the use of explosives - especially if done in violation of the SFPC.

Rest assured, along with local fire officials, the SFMO continues to be deeply involved in this important area and seeks to advance everyone's knowledge and skills.

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Virginia Building Code Academy Online

The Training and Certification Office anticipates our new secure, interactive Web site for training registration and record maintenance will be fully operational Dec. 1, 2006.

Individuals will be able to access records and perform a variety of tasks related to course registration on this site.

The Web site will be accessible from any computer that can access the internet via broadband or even dial-up. More information will follow, however look for the link and the user information on the DHCD TCO Web page in late November.

www.dhcd.virginia.gov/TCO/default.htm

Other Training Opportunities

The Training and Certification Office (TCO) is committed to providing a variety of training or educational opportunities for our code enforcement community. In that effort, we are pleased to inform you of upcoming events outside of the department that may be of interest to you and your colleagues and we hope you will consider taking advantage of these opportunities.

Floodplain Management Program

The Floodplain Management Program within the Department of Conservation and Recreation provides assistance to local communities managing development in Virginia floodplains; outreach is a key part of this effort. Training sessions help publicize potential floodplain issues and provide contacts for further discussion on individual situations.

The Virginia Floodplain Management Association (VFMA) is sponsoring/hosting the following events:

- **Floodplain Management Basics workshop**
Monday, Oct. 16, 2006, in Lynchburg, VA
- **Advanced Floodplain Management workshop**
Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006, in Front Royal, VA
- **Coastal Floodplain Management workshop**
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006, in Melfa, VA

Registration for the above events is available online at: http://www.vaflood.org/VFMA_06_Reg_Form.pdf.

National Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)
June 2007, in Norfolk, VA.

More information can be found online at: www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/norfolk.asp.

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Code Connection Subscription

"Code Connection" is published by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The purpose of the publication is to keep interested parties aware of events on the state and local levels. The newsletter addresses training schedules, interpretations by the Technical Review Board, and articles of interest to building and fire-prevention professionals.

"Code Connection" may be sent to you electronically or by mail FREE of charge. To be added to our mailing list, please complete the following information and send it to: Tco@dhcd.virginia.gov or fax to (804) 371-7092.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____



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<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/>